herbarium building with library, museum and laboratory facilities. The unit has a sanctioned strength of five Group 'A' scientists, including the Head of the Office, and 20 supporting staff, which includes both scientific & technical and ministerial. The unit has 22 residential quarters of different categories from Type l-IV.

The planned infrastructure includes establishment of a conservatory and a medicinal plant section in the associated garden of the unit for cultivation, multiplication, ex *situ* conservation and for scientific study of the endemic, threatened and medicinally important species of the State.

New Environmental norms for prior clearance to new projects

1842. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized new Environmental norms under which companies will have to get prior clearances for new projects or expansion and modernization of the existing ones;

(b) if so, what are the details of the new environmental laws;

(c) whether Government have also included a process of public consultation to address the concerns of the local affected persons or others who have a plausible stake in environmental impact of the project; and

(d) by what time they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government has brought out a draft revised Environment Impact Assessment Notification published in Gazette of India *vide* S.O. 1324(E) dated 15th September, 2005. The salient features of the proposed Notification include:

* Developmental activities have been classified into a clear Category A list of activities requiring environment clearance at Central level and clear Category B list of activities requiring environmental clearance at State level.
* Scoping has been introduced by which the regulator specifies the Terms of Reference (TOR) leaving no scope for repeated iterations in the EIA Process.
* A structure and time frame is provided for public consultation. Alternate provisions exists in case time frame is not adhered to.

* Defind time and information limits and outcomes at each stage of processing and decision-making leading to certainty in time frame.
* Ensures quality control of EIA from stage of screening/scoping.
* Separate fast-track clearance process for construction projects due to shorter project cycle.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The draft notification will have to be finalized before 14th September, 2006.

Quality of water in Ganga at Allahabad

1843. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHACHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is, at present, the quality of water in Ganga and at the Confluence of three rivers at Allahabad;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to monitor the quality of water regularly; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to provide clean and hygienic water to tourists who would visit Allahabad in December this year at the time of Kumbh Mela?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Water quality of river Ganga is being monitored once a month by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) through Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) under its ongoing programme of 'Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resoruces (MINARS)'. The Ministry of Environment & Forests is also monitoring the water quality of river Ganga for evaluating the impact of implementation of Ganga Action Plan on river water quality.

The monitoring data under Ganga Action Plan from Rishikesh (Uttranchal) to Uluberia (West Bengal) reveals that the water quality of river Ganga during the summer of 2006, is not meeting the desired bathing class standard in the stretch from Kannauj downstream to Allahabad upstream in respect of bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD), an indicator for organic pollution. The levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) however, are found to meet the standard throughout the river length. The BOD values at the bathing ghat at Sangam